

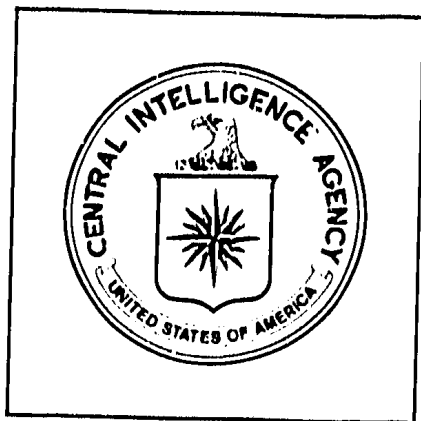
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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

DIA review(s) completed.

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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C O N T E N T S

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V-E Day in East Europe. 2

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V-E Day in East Europe

V-E Day celebrations in several East European capitals last week took on a highly nationalistic tone, and there were hints of friction between some Warsaw Pact allies over their respective roles in defeating fascism.

In Romania, President Ceausescu's speech on May 9 portrayed World War II not as a European struggle dominated by the Soviets, but as a conflagration in which a "world coalition" defeated the Axis. The US, British, French, Yugoslav, and Chinese roles in the war were praised. Ceausescu gave due credit to the Soviet war effort, but singled out the UK for special commendation. He noted that London stood alone for nearly a year against the fascists, thus taking an indirect slap at the Soviet-Nazi Pact. The Romanian leader also tweaked Soviet noses by lumping together the Munich and Molotov-Ribbentrop pacts as "encouraging the invasion and domination of other peoples."

Bucharest's annoyance with Soviet reluctance to acknowledge Romania's part in the war effort was also clearly apparent. Ceausescu quoted extensively both from Western sources and from Stalin, Molotov, and Vishinsky in praising Romania's heroic fight.

The Romanians were also highly vexed at the Soviet and Czechoslovak invitations to V-E Day receptions. Both slighted the wartime role of others--East and West. Romanian Chief of Staff General Coman made a special point of expressing his satisfaction to the US defense attache that the NATO ambassadors had boycotted the two receptions.

In Warsaw, Poland's role in the wartime alliance--not Poland as a country liberated by others--was the official theme. Part boss Gierek's nationally televised

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address was heavily laced with references to the Polish effort in defeating Nazi Germany. Gierek reminded his listeners that Poland was the only pact country apart from the USSR that played a significant part in the Allied cause throughout the entire war.

Gierek paid tribute to the "deciding role" of Moscow, but--like Ceausescu--he noted the importance of the West, and especially of the US, the UK and France.

The Hungarians, on the other hand, toed the Soviet line. Politburo member Antal Apro's V-E Day speech lashed out at those in the West for falsifying history and belittling the Soviet war effort. Apro virtually ignored the role of Western allies, attacked "imperialists" for being responsible for the rise of fascism, and suggested that the policy of appeasement had enabled Hitler to plan his attack on the USSR.

Apro was obviously using the presence of high-ranking Soviets to reiterate Budapest's loyalty to the Kremlin line. He was, however, unusually harsh, apparently going further than Brezhnev in attacking the West.

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